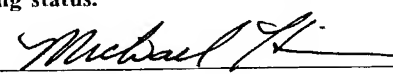


FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 12-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>17642-57</b>	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES          DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)          CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/030565</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/IT00/00278</b>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>5.July.2000 (05.07.2000)</b>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>08.July.1999 (08.07.1999)</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND THE LIKE</b>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>ZORZAN, Ivano</b>					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). <b>UNEXECUTED</b></li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <b>Cover page for PCT/IT00/00278, Publication WO 01/04704 A1.</b></li> </ol>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10 030565</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/IT00/00278</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>17642-57</b>	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... <b>\$1040.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$890.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$740.00</b>  International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$710.00</b> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b> <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 1,040.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	- 20 =		x <b>\$18.00</b>	\$	
Independent claims	- 3 =		x <b>\$84.00</b>	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+	<b>\$280.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$	<b>1,170.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				+	\$ <b>585.00</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$	<b>585.00</b>
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$	<b>585.00</b>
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +				\$	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$	<b>585.00</b>
				<b>Amount to be refunded:</b>	\$
				<b>charged:</b>	\$
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>16-2230</u> in the amount of \$ <u>585.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>16-2230</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.					
<b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: <b>HARRIS, Michael</b>  <b>OPPENHEIMER WOLFF &amp; DONNELLY LLP</b> 2029 Century Park East, Suite 3800 Los Angeles, California 90067-3024 United States of America			 SIGNATURE <b>Michael Harris</b> NAME <b>26,690</b> REGISTRATION NUMBER		

**Application No. To Be Assigned**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*This paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail  
Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR § 1.10, Mailing Label No. EL920536764US*

Applicant : Ivano Zorzan  
Application No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : January 7, 2002  
Title : AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING  
PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND THE LIKE  
Grp./Div. : To Be Determined  
Examiner : To Be Determined  
Docket No. : 17642-57

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

2029 Century Park East, Suite 3800  
Los Angeles, California 90067--3024  
January 7, 2002

Commissioner:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 3, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 4, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 5, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 6, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 7, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 8, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 9, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.  
Claim 10, lines 1-2, delete "anyone of the preceding claims" and insert therefor --claim 1--.

//

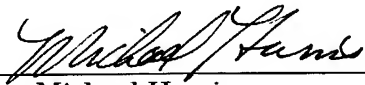
**Application No. To Be Assigned**

**REMARKS**

In view of the foregoing amendment, consideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP

By   
Michael Harris  
Reg. No. 26,690  
310-788-5098

/sfc

14-00000-101-1-2004

# DESIGN

2009-4-28-1700002

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 JAN 2002  
Docketing: 17642-57

Docketing: 17642-57

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AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND  
THE LIKE

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The present invention relates to an automatic dispenser of photographic items and the like.

More particularly, the present invention relates to an automatic dispensing machine provided with means  
10 suitable for receiving from an user one or more rolls of film to be developed and printed, as well as with means for delivering the developed photographs, and with possible means for delivering to the user different kinds of photographic material, following to a payment that may  
15 be carried out in different ways.

The invention finds its main application in the field of manufacturing automatic dispensing machines.

## BACKGROUND ART

Different types of automatic machines for dispensing  
20 articles of any kind are known in the art.

These machines are operated by means of tokens, banknotes, credit or debit cards, magnetic or electronic cards, etc.

25        These automatic dispensing machines, which can  
either be installed inside a room, or outside, are  
generally constituted by a metallic container inside of  
which there is a fixed or movable store having a  
plurality of seats or cavities, each housing a given  
article.

30 Each seat or cavity may normally be accessed to by opening suitable doors which are located on the front

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part of said container.

The payment of a given amount (as mentioned, through coins, tokens, banknotes, electronic or magnetic cards etc.) allows an user to access to a given seat and to the article contained therein.

The articles contained within said automatic dispensing machines can be of the most different type, e.g. cigarettes, flowers, foodstuffs, drinks, videocassettes, audio or video records, sanitary items etc.

By way of example, european patent application No. EP-A-577121 describes an automatic device for dispensing audiovisual and digital record carriers.

Said device comprises a fixed magazine comprising a plurality of adjacent seats placed on respective rows and columns, each seat being suitable for housing a record carrier, at least an article handling unit for externally loading and unloading said articles through a slot, a device for reading an identifying label associated to each carrier, a device by means of which an user can select a given carrier, as well as an automatic payment means that, once activated, allows a carrier to be withdrawn from the device.

Said handling unit comprises a pair of carriages which are parallel to each other and movable along vertical guides, as well as a slider that is movable along a second horizontal guide connected to said carriages; a blocking element for handling the carriers is rigidly fixed to said slider.

30 Said blocking element comprises movable jaws and a device for automatically modifying the distance between

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the jaws along a further guide.

The opening and closing operation of the doors, thus the access to the seats containing the carriers, is controlled by a suitable computer, that is on its turn  
5 connected to a device for identifying the user (i.e. through a magnetic card) and for carrying out the payment (i.e. through banknotes or credit card).

Other automatic machines with advance payment functions known in the art include a camera and a device  
10 for automatically developing and printing the photos snapped by said camera.

Following to the payment of a given amount, the user is photographed and, after some minutes, he/she receives from the machine one or more prints of the snapped photo.

15 The machine disclosed in FR-A-2724793 relates to an optimized automatic plant capable to develop and print a withdrawn film of photographs.

This machine appears to be very similar to other automatic machines which are well known in the art and  
20 which usually include a camera as well as a device to automatically develop and print the pictures snapped by said camera.

In these known machines, following to the payment of a given amount of money, the user is photographed and,  
25 after some minutes, he/she receives from the machine one or more prints of the snapped pictures.

In the case of the machine described in FR-A-2724793 there is no incorporated camera, but only a system able to receive the film to be developed and to return it  
30 after development following to the payment of a given amount of money.

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The applicant is not aware of automatic dispensing machines which were able to withdraw from an user a roll of photos to be developed and deliver to said user, after a given period of time, printed photos according to sizes and number of copies which are selected by the user.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention aims to provide a new kind of automatic dispensing machine that allows an user to directly deliver a roll of film to be developed and to successively withdraw printed photos in a size and in a number of copies that is determined by said user.

This is achieved by means of an automatic dispensing machine having the features disclosed in the main claim.

The dependent claims outline particularly advantageous forms of embodiment of the dispensing machine according to the invention.

The automatic dispensing machine according to the present invention comprises a container housing a series of seats which are suitable for receiving rolls of film to be developed, as well as at least a door, that is placed on the front part of the dispensing machine, through which an user can introduce one or more rolls to be developed and printed in the machine.

According to the invention, the dispensing machine comprises means suitable for univocally identifying the roll or rolls inserted in the machine by the user, means for associating said roll or rolls to one or more of said seats, as well as means for displacing said roll or rolls towards its/their associated seat or seats.

Furthermore the dispensing machine comprises data computing, storing and displaying means allowing a



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skilled operator who withdraws the rolls from predetermined seats, to reintroduce the printed photos within the same seats in order to allow the user who had required the developing and printing service to  
5 successively withdraw the photos.

According to a particularly advantageous form of embodiment of the invention, the automatic dispensing machine comprises a suitable control software, a data inputting keyboard and a suitable display by means of  
10 which the user can input a series of possibly pre-selected requests, such as for instance the number of copies to be printed and/or their size.

Furthermore, the dispensing machine can be provided with means both for issuing a card including the user's  
15 identifying data, and for reading said card if it is already available.

According to a further advantageous form of embodiment of the invention, the automatic dispensing machine comprises a magazine housing a series of items  
20 which can be selected by the user, as well as means for dispensing said items to the user after a given amount has been paid; for example, said items can be constituted by various material such as new rolls of film, audio or video cassettes, batteries, disposable cameras, etc.

25 The latter form of embodiment appears to be extremely advantageous from the point of view of the user's convenience, since the machine can in practice dispense all the services of a photograph's shop at any time, in particular beyond the normal shop closing time.

30 This kind of dispensing machine can be installed anywhere, thereby allowing a series of selling points to

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Other features and advantages of the invention will  
5 become apparent by reading the following description of a  
form of embodiment of the invention, given as a non-  
limiting example, with the help of the drawings  
illustrated in the attached sheets, in which:

- fig. 1 shows a schematical perspective exploded view  
10 of a dispensing machine according to the invention;
- fig. 2 is a flow-sheet showing the general operation  
of a dispensing machine according to the invention;
- fig. 3 is a flow-sheet showing the operation mode  
"roll acceptance" of the dispensing machine  
15 according to the invention;
- fig. 4 is a flow-sheet showing the operation mode  
"delivering of photos" of the dispensing machine  
according to the invention;
- fig. 5 is a flow-sheet showing the operation mode  
20 "selling of items" of the dispensing machine  
according to the invention.

In figure 1, reference sign 10 generally indicates a machine for automatically dispensing photographic products and the like according to the present invention.

Said machine 10 has a structural shape that is similar to the one of a per se known dispenser for renting videocassettes.

Thus, the dispensing machine according to the  
30 present invention comprises a metallic container 11,  
whose rear part is provided with a series of modular

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hive-shaped containers 12, whereby each container 12 includes a series of seats 13; each seat is suitable for housing an item whose overall dimensions are compatible with those of the seat.

5 According to the present invention, said modular hive-shaped containers 12 form a magazine for storing developed photos.

Inside of each seat 13 the operator, in this case the person who manages the dispensing machine, inserts a  
10 suitable box containing the photos which have been printed starting from a roll of film introduced into the dispensing machine by the user according to the operating way that will later be described in detail.

In this context, it has to be stressed that spatial  
15 position of each seat of the hive-shaped containers is coded inside a suitable software that controls the operation of dispensing machine 10.

In the front part, dispensing machine 10 is provided with a suitable displaying device, e.g. a monitor 14, as  
20 well as with a keyboard 15 through which the user can input different data.

According to an alternative form of embodiment, monitor 14 is constituted by a so-called "touch-screen" monitor that allows a data input by the user through  
25 touching predetermined portions of said monitor; in this case keyboard 15 can be eliminated.

Yet, the front part of dispensing machine 10 comprises a door 16 that can be opened by means of the electronic control logics of the dispensing machine; the  
30 opening operation of door 16 (that is designed in order to prevent any accident), gives access to a chute (not,

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illustrated in the figure) through which the user can introduce one or more rolls of film to be developed into container 11.

Furthermore, the front part of container is provided  
5 with a second door 17 (that is designed in order to prevent any accident too) that can be opened by means of the electronic control logics of the dispensing machine; the opening operation of said second door 17 allows the user to withdraw a box (not illustrated in the figure)  
10 inside of which there are the printed photos.

Yet, the front part of the container is provided with a cashing device 18 which, depending on circumstances, may be constituted by a device for accepting coins and/or banknotes, or by a credit card  
15 reader; alternatively, a device for identifying the user can be constituted by a biometric sensor that associates, for instance, a given user to his fingerprint.

Furthermore, said device can be provided with a chute (not illustrated in the drawing) for the possible  
20 delivering of change money to the user, where the latter has paid a higher amount than the due one.

Cashing devices 18 of this kind are well known to the skilled technicians, and they do not require any further description.

25 According to the invention, dispensing machine 10 further comprises a device 19, whose outlet is placed on the front part of container 11, for issuing a card provided with an identifying code that can electronically be read by the control logics of dispensing machine 10.

30 Said card, that can physically be constituted by a magnetic card, a microchip card, or provided with a bar

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code etc., is associated to a series of adhesive labels having a numeric code that is univocally associated to said card.

Once an adhesive label is affixed to the roll of  
5 film to be developed, the latter is then univocally associated to the card that is kept by the user for successively withdrawing the printed photos.

According to an advantageous form of embodiment of the invention device 19 is suitable for expelling a box  
10 that bears said identifying codes and that contains said card.

In this case, the user opens the box, withdraws the card, introduces the roll of film to be developed inside of said box and finally places said box on the chute  
15 behind door 16.

According to the invention, a suitable reader (not illustrated) verifies and validates then the introduction of the roll by means of the user.

According to a form of embodiment of the invention,  
20 front part of container 11 further comprises a conventional dispensing device 20, e.g. a system for delivering a series of objects placed on a rack, in order to sell some further accessories (for example new rolls of film, batteries, disposable cameras, etc.).T

25 The access to selling device 20 is always controlled by monitor 14, keyboard 15 and cashing device 17.

Inside container 11 there is a system for withdrawing the photographs which are present within  
seats 13 of hives 12.

30 This system, that is connected to the electronic control logics of dispensing machine 10, comprises a

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carriage 21 movable along two perpendicular axes; said carriage supports a handling device 22 that is movable along a third axis Z which is perpendicular to X, Y axes.

Through this system, handling device 22 withdraws a  
5 given box placed inside a seat 13, and delivers it to the user in correspondence of door 17.

The overall operation of dispensing machine 10 according to the present invention is shown in the flow-sheets of figures 2 to 4 and can be described as follows.

10 The user who has to deliver on or more rolls of films to be developed introduces into the dispensing machine a minimum starting amount (i.e. 500 or 1000 Italian Lire, approx. EUR 0,25 to 0,50) and obtains from the machine a card provided with several adhesive labels  
15 (or, according to another form of embodiment, a box that is already coded for introducing the rolls therein and that contains the card for withdrawing the printed photos; the machine unlocks then door 16 and the gives access to the chute for inserting the roll.

20 The acceptance of the roll by dispensing machine 10 causes a signal to be issued by the electronic control logics of the dispensing machine.

Said signal is transmitted, through suitable means, (e.g. through a local area network or a modem) to a  
25 personal computer that is owned by the dispensing machine manager, who withdraws then the roll to be developed.

Once the development has been carried out and the photographs have been printed, the manager places the photos inside a suitable box and places the latter within  
30 a given seat 13 of the dispensing machine.

By means of his personal computer, the manager

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informs the control logics of the dispensing machine about the spatial position of the container which, on its turn, bears the code associated to the user's card.

When the user wishes to withdraw his printed  
5 photographs, he will introduce his card within the dispensing machine and (see in particular fig. 2), if the photographs are ready, the dispensing machine displays on monitor 14 the cost of the service.

The subsequent introduction of the prompted amount  
10 causes the delivering procedure to be switched on (see fig. 4), whereby carriage 21 and handling device 22 are activated.

The latter picks up the box that is present inside of given seat 13 and places it in correspondence of door  
15 17 that is opened in order to allow the user to withdraw the box.

If the user wishes to purchase further products which are present inside of the selling dispenser 20, the procedure illustrated in fig. 5 is switched on;  
20 therefore, the introduction of a given amount allows a given door or drawer of dispenser 20 to be opened, thereby giving access to that product.

The invention has been described with reference to a particular form of embodiment thereof.

25 However, it is clear that the invention includes several variants falling within its spirit and scopes, in the range of the appended claims.

By way of example, the invention has been described with reference to a form of embodiment according to which  
30 the hive-shaped containers 12 provided with seats 13 for the printed photos are fixed inside container 11, and the

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dispensing machine is provided of a system for moving and handling the boxes along three mutually perpendicular axes; however, according to a form of embodiment the hive-shaped containers are mounted on a rotating drum, 5 and the handling device is only movable along Y and Z axes; in this case the movement along X axis is carried out by rotating said drum.



## CLAIMS

1. Automatic machine (10) for dispensing photographic products and the like, comprising a container (11)  
5 inside which there is at least a magazine constituted by one or more hive-shaped containers (12), each of said hive-shaped containers comprising a plurality of seats (13), a system for moving and handling (21, 22) the products which are housed  
10 within said seats (13) controlled by an electronic control logics, a data inputting (15) and displaying (14) device placed on the front part of said container, a device (17) for delivering outwards the products which have been withdrawn from said seats  
15 (13), as well as a cashing device (18), characterised in that it further comprises a device (16) for collecting at least a roll of film to be developed, as well as a device (17) suitable for delivering a coded carrier to the user, in particular a magnetic or microchip card or a card  
20 provided of bar codes, whereby a code to be associated to the roll to be introduced within said dispensing machine (10) is bound to said carrier.
2. Dispensing machine (10) according to claim 1,  
25 characterised in that it further comprises a device for reading and storing data which are associated to the user, in particular a magnetic or microchip card reader, or a biometric sensor.
3. Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the  
30 preceding claims, characterised in that it further comprises a second dispenser (20) for selling

products, e.g. new rolls of film, disposable cameras, batteries, whose operation is controlled by the electronic control logics of said dispensing machine (10).

- 5     4.     Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that it further comprises a device for verifying and validating the roll provided with a code that is introduced within said dispensing machine (10).
- 10    5.     Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises a series of boxes suitable for containing printed photographs, each box being placed inside of a predetermined seat (13).
- 15    6.     Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises memory means for storing the spatial position and the state, either empty or full, of each seat (13), as well as means for associating the code carried by said coded carrier to a given box containing printed photographs.
- 20    7.     Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that it further comprises means for transmitting to a remote location the data relative to the rolls of film to be developed introduced within the dispensing machine.
- 25    8.     Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that it further comprises means for receiving from a remote location and for storing the data relative to the position of
- 30

the printed photographs inside of the hive-shaped containers (12), as well as to the amounts to be paid for the rendered services.

- 5 9. Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that said magazine is fixed inside of said container (11), and in that said moving and handling system (21, 22) comprises a device that is movable along three mutually perpendicular axes (X, Y, Z).
- 10 10. Dispensing machine (10) according to anyone of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that said magazine is constituted by a drum rotating about a vertical axis whereby the side surface of said drum is provided with said seats (13), said moving and
- 15 handling device (21, 22) being movable along two (Y, Z) mutually perpendicular axes.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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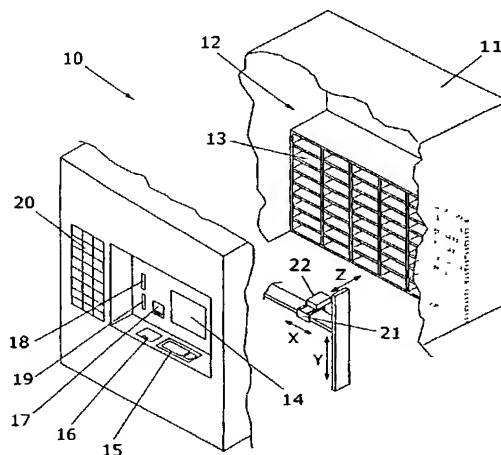
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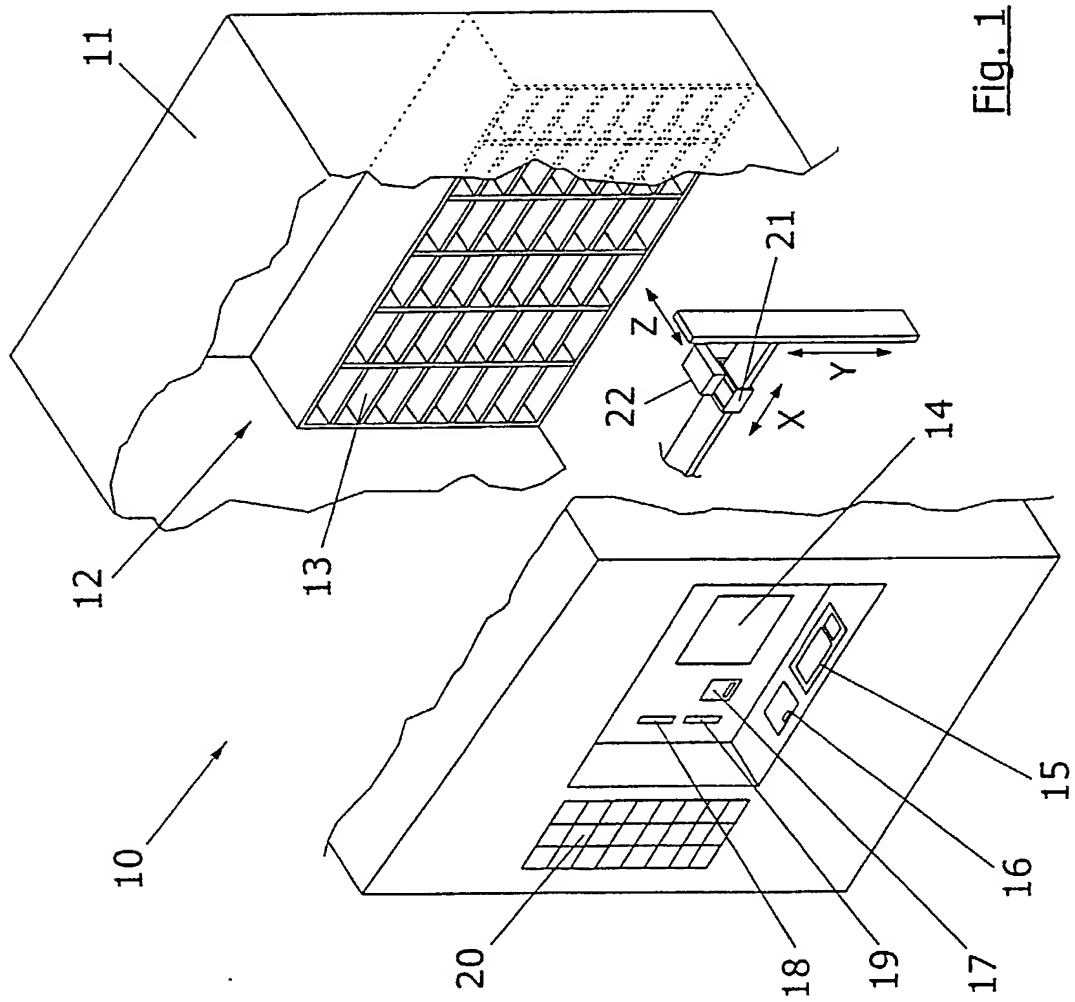
(54) Title: AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND THE LIKE



(57) Abstract: An automatic machine (10) for dispensing photographic products and the like comprises a container (11) inside which there is at least a magazine constituted by one or more hive-shaped containers (12), each of said hive-shaped containers comprising a plurality of seats (13), a system for moving and handling (21, 22) the products which are housed within said seats (13) controlled by an electronic control logics, a data inputting (15) and displaying (14) device placed on the front part of said container, a device (17) for delivering outwards the products which have been withdrawn from said seats (13), as well as a cashing device (18). Said machine further comprises a device (16) for collecting at least a roll of film to be developed, as well as a device (17) suitable for delivering a coded carrier to the user, in particular a magnetic or microchip card or a card provided of bar codes, whereby a code to be associated to the roll to be introduced within said dispensing machine (10) is bound to said carrier.

WO 01/04704 A1

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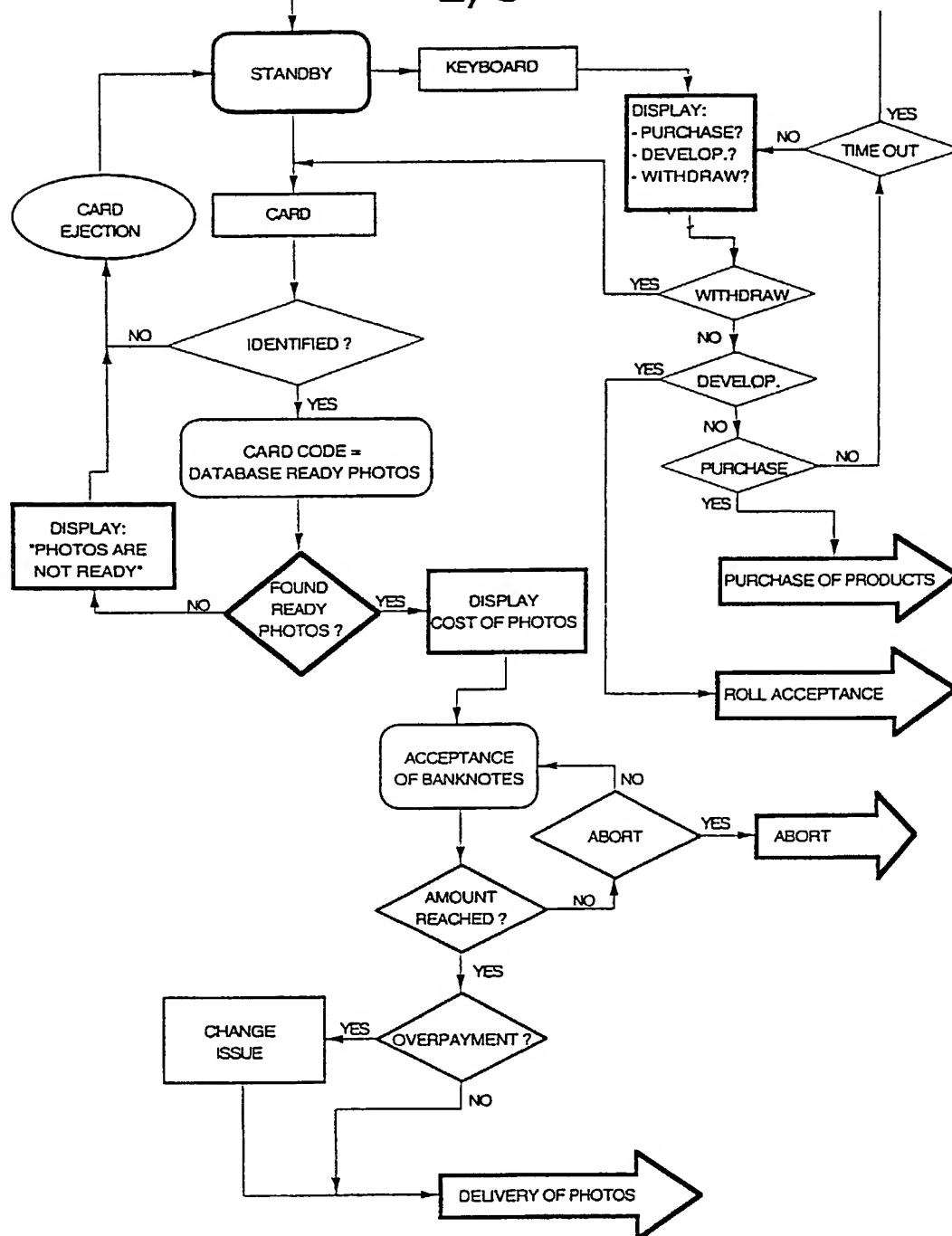


Fig. 2

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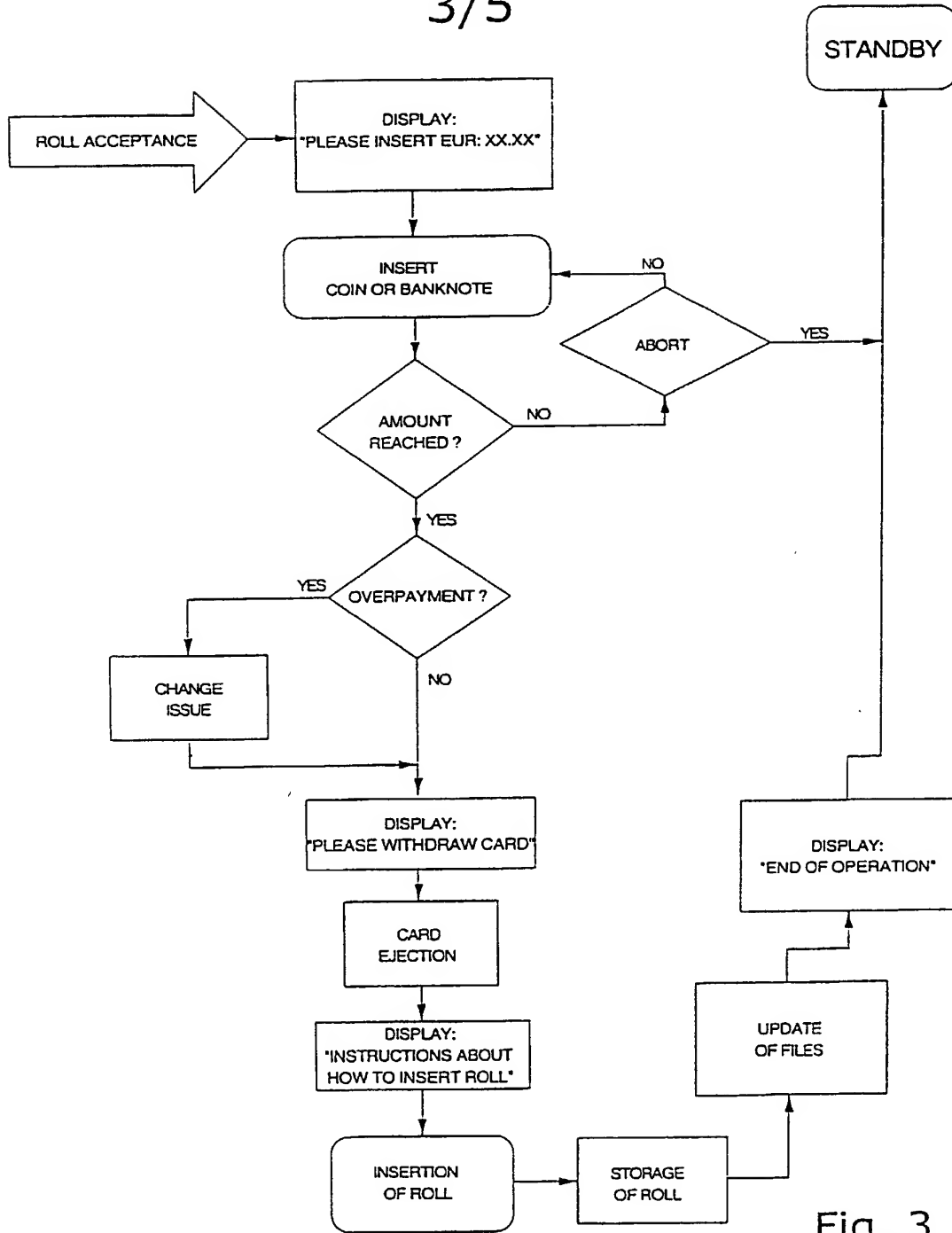


Fig. 3

4/5

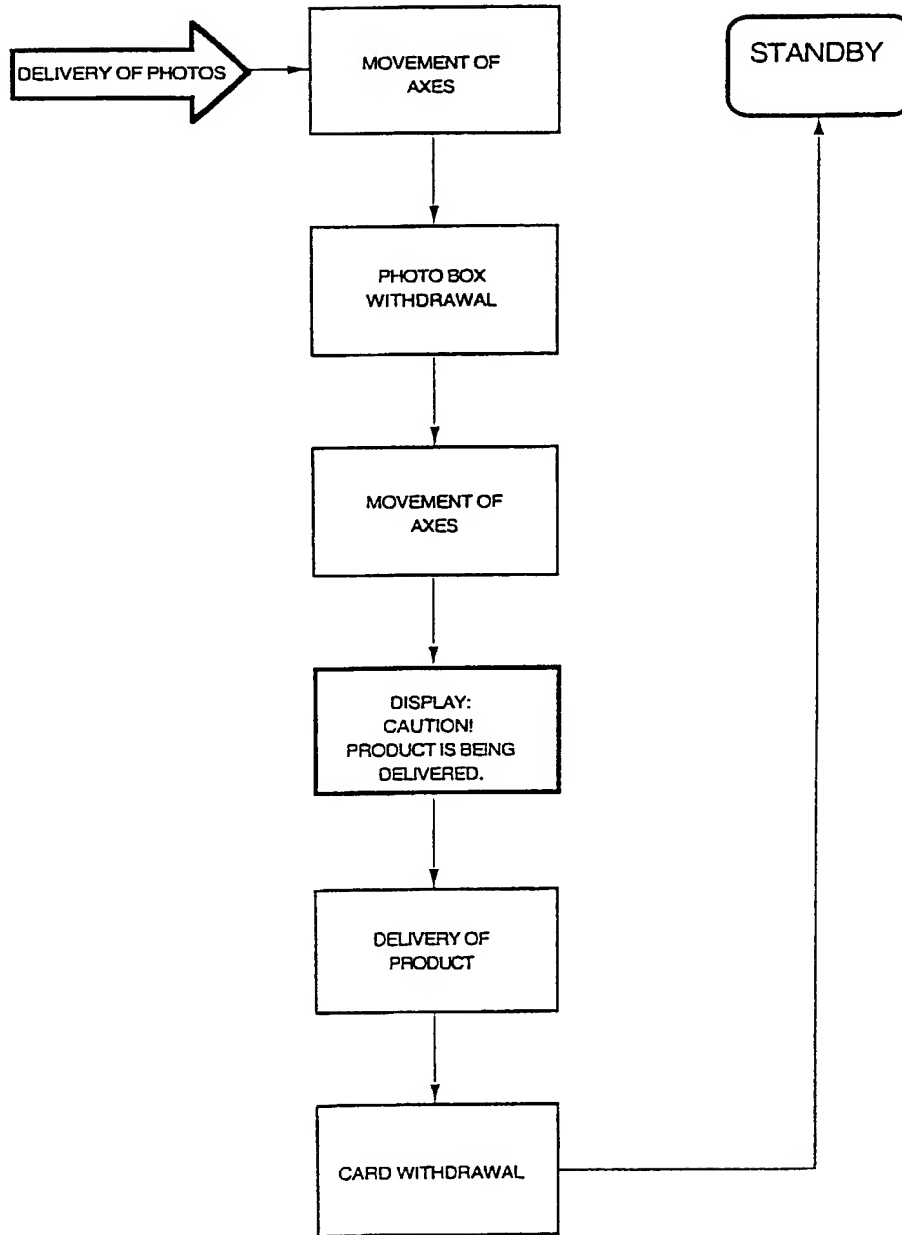


Fig. 4



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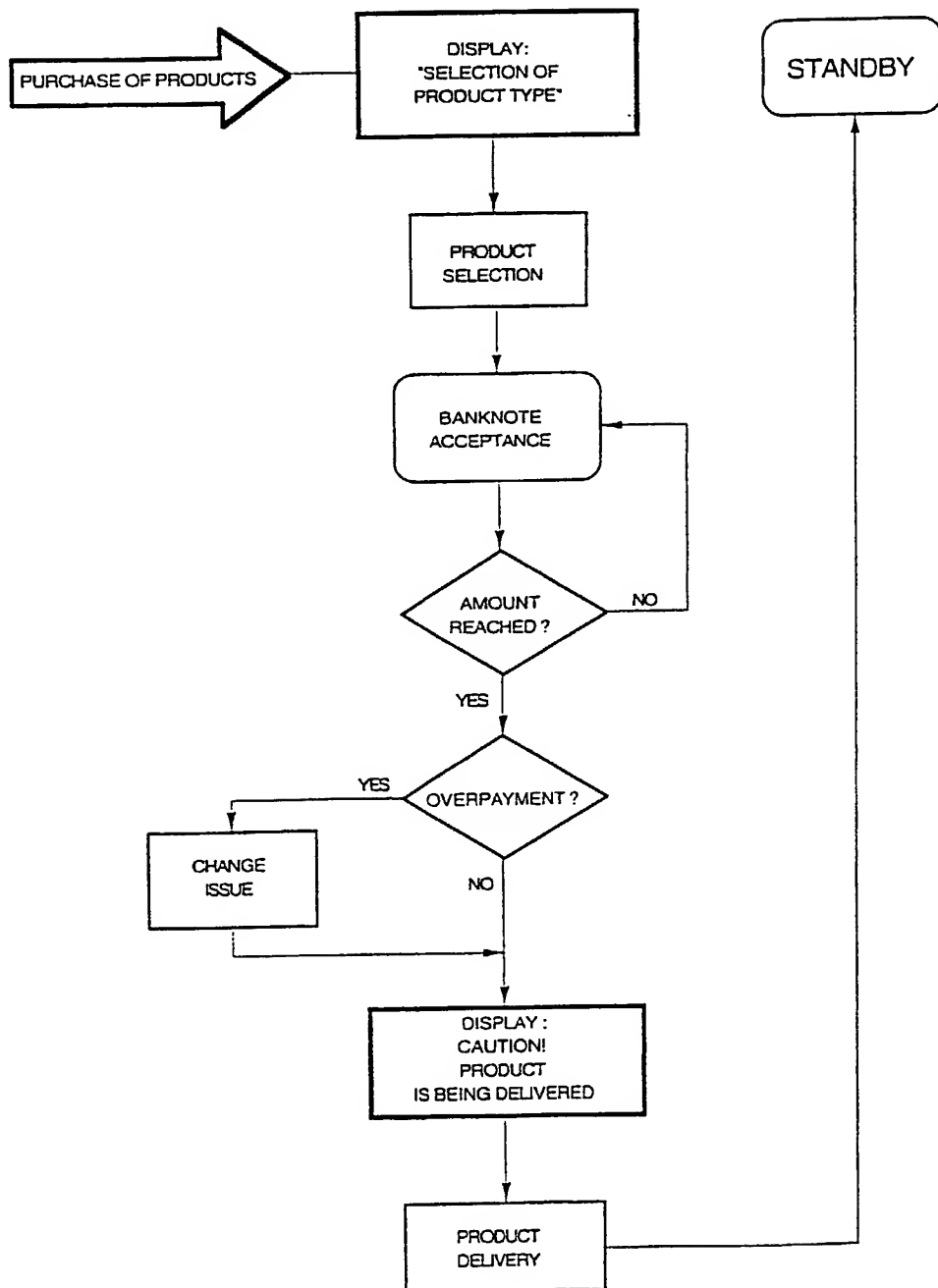


Fig. 5

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Ivano Zorzan	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Serial No.:	10/030,565	Group Art Unit:	Not Yet Assigned
Filed:	Not Yet Assigned	Docket No.:	017642-000057
Title:	AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND THE LIKE		

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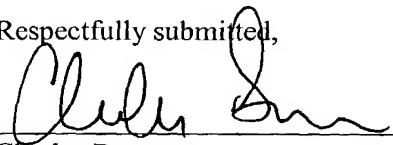
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I am one of the Attorneys or Agents of Record as originally listed in the original power of attorney, and remain applicant's attorney at present.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Charles Berman  
Reg. No. 29,249

Date: July 1, 2002

**PATENT**

**Matter No.:** 17642-57

**Applicant:** Ivano ZORZAN

**Title:** AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR  
DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND  
THE LIKE

**Serial No.:**

**Filed:**

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Sir:

**NORTECH ITALIA SRL**, having become the owner of all rights to this application by virtue of an Assignment executed by the inventor concurrently with the execution of the application, the Assignment being submitted with this power of attorney for recording, appoints:

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their attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact in connection with the application all business in the Patent and Trademark Office and before competent International Authorities including the World Intellectual Property Organization.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, title is in the assignee identified above. I am empowered to act on behalf of the assignee.

I declare that all statements made in this document of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I make these statements with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing from the application.

**NORTECH ITALIA SRL**

**Assignee**

Date: January 10, 2002

By 

Name: Ivano ZORZAN

Title: Managing Director

# DECLARATION AND PETITION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled AUTOMATIC MACHINE FOR DISPENSING PHOTOGRAPHIC ITEMS AND THE LIKE the specification of which was filed on 05.July.2000 as Application Serial No. PCT/IT00/00278 and was amended on January 7, 2002.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application of which priority is claimed.

## PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Number	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed?
VR99A000057	Italy	8.July.1999	Yes

I hereby declare: All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. These statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Ivano Zorzan

Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date January 10, 2002

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ITX